

Message Text

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70

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 AID-05 IGA-01

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 USIA-06 OCL-00 OC-05 CCO-00 /068 W

----- 053669

R 141524Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4953

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OSD-ISA//

OJCS WASHDC//J-5//

HQ DA WASHDC//DAMO-SAO (LTC PIKE)//

CNO WASHDC//OP 63 ADM GERHART

NSC WASHDC//COL GRANGER//

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY//ECJ4/7//

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 1395

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MARR, PFOR, PINS, LI

SUBJECT: INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA

REF: (A) MONROVIA 0441

(B) USCINCEUR 311337Z JAN 75

(C) MONROVIA 0811

(D) CLIBMISH MON LIB B-007 DTG 141520Z

MAR 75

SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED A ONE-TIME GRANT OF \$2.5 MILLION (OR ALTERNATIVELY FMS CREDIT IN THAT AMOUNT) FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR BOTH MILITARY AND CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS. THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD SUPPORT GOL NATION-BUILDING AND RURAL INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PARTICULAR USES TO WHICH EQUIPMENT WOULD BE PUT HAVE STRONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT. SUPPLY

OF THIS EQUIPMENT ON TERMS RECOMMENDED WOULD BE RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE WAY OF HEADING OFF ANTICIPATED DEMANDS BY GOL FOR HIGHER RENTALS FOR SITES OF VALUABLE US COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN LIBERIA. ALTHOUGH ONE-TIME GRANT WOULD HAVE MOST POLITICAL IMPACT, ANY MIX OF GRANT OR FMS CREDIT, ONE-TIME OR SPREAD OVER PERIOD, WOULD BE HELPFUL AND COULD BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED. END SUMMARY.

1. BY MONROVIA 0441 EMBASSY URGED ONE-TIME GRANT OF \$2.5 MILLION FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT, BOTH FOR MILITARY FUNCTIONS AND FOR EVER MORE VALUABLE CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS. IN EVENT GRANT NOT POSSIBLE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDED THAT FMS CREDIT WOULD BE FEASIBLE, BUT LESS DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE. EMBASSY WISHES TO AMPLIFY POLITICAL RATIONALE IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF ITS PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH EUCOM HAS SUPPORTED (USCINCEUR 311337Z JAN 75).

2. PROGRAMS FOR WHICH EQUIPMENT THAT GRANT OR LOAN WOULD BE USED, BOTH IN MILITARY AND IN CIVIC ACTION FIELDS, HAVE PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S STRONG PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT. COAST GUARD COMPONENT WOULD PROVIDE CAPABILITIES NOW ALMOST TOTALLY LACKING IN AIR-SEA RESCUE, SMUGGLING PREVENTION, MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OCEAN POLLUTION CONTROL (A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM HERE). HEAVY EQUIPMENT COMPONENT WOULD NOT ONLY UPGRADE MILITARY EFFICIENCY AND CAPABILITIES BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTE STRONGLY IN CIVIC ACTION AREA. THESE PROGRAMS FIT RIGHT INTO PRESIDENT'S NATION-BUILDING AND INTEGRATED-RURAL-DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS, AND POWERFULLY REINFORCE HIS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP QUALITY OF SELF-RELIANCE AT ALL LEVELS OF LIBERIAN SOCIETY.

3. PROGRAMS RECOMMENDED WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY OF LIBERIAN POLITICAL SCENE. ONLY REAL (IF REMOTE) MILITARY THREAT COMES FROM YOUNGER OFFICERS AND THESE PROGRAMS WILL APPEAL TO THAT ELEMENT. PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS TOLD US THAT HIS THINKING PROCEEDS ALONG THESE LINES.

4. AS LIBERIA PROCEEDS THROUGH PRESENT PERIOD OF ECONOMIC DISTRESS, GOL OFFICIALS FROM PRESIDENT DOWN HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT LIBERIA NEEDS MORE, NOT LESS, ASSISTANCE. TREND, HOWEVER, IS DOWNWARD, AND SEVERAL GOL OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED ADVERSELY ON THIS DEVELOPMENT (MONROVIA 0811). GOL IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REVENUES IN RENEGOTIATION OF CONCESSIONS; EMBASSY VIEWS IT AS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT GOL WILL SOON THINK OF RAISING PRICE TAG ON REAL ESTATE OCCUPIED BY US FACILITIES, SUCH AS VOA, ATO AND OMEGA STATION. EMBASSY BELIEVES AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF MONROVIA 0441 WOULD BE A RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE WAY OF MAINTAINING PRESENT POSITION AND OF FORESTALLING LIBERIAN EFFORTS TO RENEGOTIATE RENTALS.

5. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS PREFERENCE FOR ONE-TIME GRANT OF \$2.5 MILLION. THIS OPTION WOULD MAKE FOR MOST IMMEDIATE AND HEAVIEST POLITICAL IMPACT, REINFORCING U.S. IMAGE AS DEPENDABLE FRIEND OF LIBERIA AND HELPING HER OUT WITH NEEDED PROGRAMS WHEN HER OWN RESOURCES ARE HEAVILY STRAINED. LUMP-SUM CREDIT, HOPEFULLY FOR LONGER TERM AND WITH CONCESSIONAL INTEREST RATES, WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL, BUT OF LESS POSITIVE POLITICAL IMPACT. EMBASSY ALSO NOW SUGGESTS THAT ANY MIX OF GRANT OR FMS CREDIT, ONE-TIME OR SPREAD OVER PERIOD, COULD ALSO BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED.

6. MILMISH R 141520Z MAR 75 DESCRIBES URGENCY FOR ACTION ON COAST GUARD COMPONENT OF SUBJECT HEREOF DUE TO PRESSURE FROM BRITISH FOR DECISION ON THEIR COMPETITIVE PACKAGE. EMBASSY BELIEVES RENEWED EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO BRING ABOUT EARLY AND FAVORABLE DECISION ON INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA DISCUSSED HEREIN.

DECONTROL MARCH 31, 1981.

MANFULL

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